

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 09141 01 OF 02 181816Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----020417 181820Z /42

O R 181804Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8652
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09141

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), GW, WB
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: OUT-OF-BONN PROGRAM

REFS: (A) STATE 125742 (DTG 171942Z MAY 78); NOTAL
(B) BONN 8840 (DTG 121811Z MAY 78)

1. THE CHANCELLERY HAS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE
RHEIN MAIN/WIESBADEN/BRIGADE 76 SCENARIO OUTLINED IN
REF B, SUGGESTING THAT A CLOSE LOOK BE TAKEN AT THE
POSSIBILITY OF A RHEIN MAIN/FRANKFURT/HANAU PROGRAM.

2. IN INFORMING RUHFUS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE OF
THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF THE WHITE HOUSE SURVEY TEAM,
THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE HAD SHOWN
INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED WIESBADEN VISIT AND WOULD WISH
TO MAKE A SITE SURVEY THERE. IN CONTRAST TO THE
PRELIMINARY FAVORABLE INDICATION HE HAD GIVEN EARLIER

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(REPORTED IN PARA 6, REF B), RUHFUS INDICATED TODAY
THAT THE TENTATIVE OPINION OF THE CHANCELLERY WAS THAT
FRANKFURT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO WIESBADEN. RUHFUS
SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTIES OF DISTANCE AND
LOGISTICS WITH NUREMBERG AND GRAFENWOEHR, AND THOUGHT
USE OF RHEIN MAIN AIR BASE AND PLANNING THE OUT-OF-BONN
PROGRAM IN THAT AREA WAS SENSIBLE. NOR DID HE EXCLUDE

WIESBADEN AS THE MAJOR CITY TO BE VISITED.

3. RUHFUS POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT FRANKFURT WAS A MORE TYPICAL GERMAN CITY, OF MUCH GREATER HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE THAN WIESBADEN. A PROGRAM THERE MIGHT INCLUDE A PUBLIC APPEARANCE BY THE PRESIDENT IN THE ROEMERPLATZ AND PERHAPS IN FRONT OF THE PAULSKIRCHE. WHEN TOLD THAT WE HAD HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT DOWNTOWN FRANKFURT PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION, RUHFUS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THAT COULD BE HANDLED.

4. AS FOR THE MILITARY PORTION OF THE PROGRAM, RUHFUS WONDERED WHETHER HANAU MIGHT NOT BE PREFERABLE TO BRIGADE 76. THE VISIT, HE SAID, SHOULD BE NOT JUST TO A HEADQUARTERS BUT TO A PLACE WHERE THERE WERE EQUIPMENT AND TROOPS AND WHERE THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR COULD "SEE SOME ACTION." THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE THOUGHT THOSE CRITERIA COULD BE MET AT BRIGADE 76 BUT AGREED THAT HANAU MIGHT ALSO BE EXPLORED.

5. WE WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN FIRMER VIEWS FROM THE CHANCELLERY BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE SURVEY TEAM, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN THE CHANCELLOR'S OWN VIEWS BECAUSE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK ON MAY 25. MEANWHILE, WE WILL BE SEEKING TO DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO BASED ON FRANKFURT AND HANAU FOR
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O R 181804Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8653
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 09141

EXDIS

CONSIDERATION BY THE SURVEY TEAM ALONG WITH WIESBADEN.

6. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. FOR FRANKFURT: TO SUPPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS
YOU HAVE PROVIDED FOR A WIESBADEN SCENARIO,
PLEASE PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING A
VISIT TO DOWNTOWN FRANKFURT ALONG THE LINES
SUGGESTED BY RUHFUS.

B. FOR EUCOM: WOULD APPRECIATE FULLER INFORMATION
ON THE NATURE OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT BE
PROGRAMMED FOR WIESBADEN/ERBENHEIM AIR BASE
(BRIGADE 76), INCLUDING IN GENERAL TERMS THE
NUMBERS AND TYPES OF US AND GERMAN FORCES AND
EQUIPMENT THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. IN ADDITION,
WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON HANAU AS AN
ALTERNATE, TO INCLUDE COMMENTS ON THE TYPES OF
ACTIVITY WHICH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THERE, ALONG
WITH A POSSIBLE SCENARIO FOR A RHEIN MAIN/
FRANKFURT/HANAU/RHEIN MAIN PROGRAM. WE HAVE
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BEEN INFORMED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WISHES TO
KEEP TRAVEL AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE, WITH AS FEW
STOPS AND CHANGES OF TRANSPORTATION AS POSSIBLE.
EMPHASIS SHOULD THEREFORE BE ON ROUTES
PERMITTING TRAVEL BY MOTORCADE.

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